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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 04575 221948Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EB-07 L-03 TRSE-00 AID-05

COME-00 /029 W
---------- 018396
R 221910Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5140
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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DEPT FOR ARA/CAR FROM PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, DO
SUBJECT: OPIC CLAIM-CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATES/CRESCENT CONSTRUCTION VS. GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA

REF: (A) STATE 193577 (B) BRIDGETOWN 1589

1. NOTE: FOLLOWING SENT FROM SAN JOSE DUE REPORTING OFFICER'S LATE RETURN TO BRIDGETOWN AND SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE FOR COSTA RICA.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED OPIC CLAIM WITH GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS PARLIMENTARY SECRETARY (LUKE CORIETTE) AND MINISTRY'S CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER ON SEPTEMBER 17. (MINISTER DOUGLASS WAS ON LEAVE AND UNAVAILABLE.)

3. BOTH OFFICIALS AGREED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET SUBMITTED THE THREE MATTERS IN DISPUTE (PARA 1, REF. A) FOR RESOLUTION USING PROCEDURES IN BASIC CONTRACT. (FOR THAT MATTER THEY APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF THE PROCEDURES.) THEY AGREED THAT ACTION (A) AND (C) CITED IN PARA 1, REF A WERE TAKEN BUT WERE UNCLEAR AS TO (B). THE "FORMAL CLAIM" IS PRESENTLY REPOSING IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

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4. DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTANT ON THE

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PROJECT, A MR. GREENZAN, IS REPORTED TO BE IN
THE U.S. TALKING WITH THE CONTRACTORS ABOUT THE DISPUTE.
OPIC MAY WISH TO ASK CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATES ABOUT THEIR
PROGRESS, IF ANY, WITH GREENZAN.

5. CORIETTE AND THE CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER PROMISED TO
FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE MATTER IN TIME FOR A SECOND
EMBOFF VISIT IN EARLY OCTOBER. (IF VISIT NOT POSSIBLE WE
WILL PHONE THEM.)

6. FYI DEPT: FACT DEEPWATER HARBOR PROJECT IS CURRENTLY
HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUE IN DOMINICA COUPLED WITH RECENT
UNFAVORABLE CHANGES IN POLITICAL CLIMATE (SUBJECT OF LATER
REPORT) VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT
PAY U.S. JOINT VENTURE AMOUNTS IN DISPUTE. DOMINICANS OF
ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS ARE STILL ANGRY OVER CDB DELAYS
IN APPROVING PROJECT AND RESULTING GREATLY HIGHER COST DUE
TO INFLATION. MANY REALIZE NOW THAT THE ISLAND DIDN'T REALLY
NEED A DEEPWATER HARBOUR AND THAT GIVEN PRESENT ECONOMIC
TRENDS IT UNLIKELY THAT LOAN CAN EVER BE REPAID. FACT
PROJECT IS UNFINISHED - AND LIKELY TO REMAIN SO - ALSO RANKLES.
SOME OF LOCAL IRE DIRECTED TOWARD CDB ALSO TOUCHES U.S.
MQYY BECAUSE CONTRACTORS WERE U.S. FIRMS.
TODMAN

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